

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW BADGER FROM MEXICO-UNITED STATES
BOUNDARY

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Further studies of Mexican badgers reveal a new subspecies of *Taxidea taxus* from the Transition Zone, austral region of north northeast Sonora and southeastern Arizona. This race is a grayer subspecies than *sonoriensis* or *berlandieri* which may be recognized by the following description.

Taxidea taxus apache, subsp. nov.

Type.—No. 20747, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum, young 35880

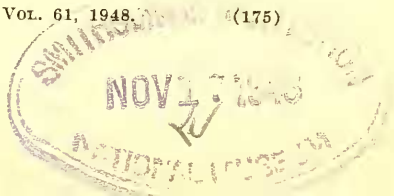
adult female (coronal sutures fused), collected at San Pedro River, Arizona, and Sonora, Mexico-United States boundary line, October 20, 1892, by Capt. Edgar A. Mearns, U. S. Army, and Frank Xavier Holzner, U. S. National Museum. Original No. 2139.

Distribution.—Grassy plains region of southeastern Arizona and north northeastern Sonora, near Mexican-United States boundary, 25 miles south into Sonora, and 65 miles north to Wilcox, Arizona, in the Transition Zone, Apachian biotic province (Dice).

Diagnostic characters.—Body has a more silvery appearance than *sonoriensis* or specimens from the surrounding area; and has a median white line extending from near the nostrils over the dorsal area to the root of the tail.

Color.—Type, summer pelage in process of molting, which apparently seems to start on the face and head and proceeds posteriorly over the dorsal area where it has been replaced with new winter pelage: Face, forehead (except median line) and patches on sides of face in front of ears black as customary in the species; white irregular markings on sides of forehead and cheeks merge with light buffy under parts of throat and neck; ears black fringed with white; general dorsal area is a gray, pinkish buff and black mixture, the hairs at the base are pinkish buff (Ridgway) or moth color (Maerz and Paul), then subapically banded with black and tipped with gray, giving this race a lighter and grayer appearance than *berlandieri* or *sonoriensis*; median white line extends over dorsal area from near nostrils to root of tail; chin brownish; general abdominal area pinkish buff, except for light buff median line; limbs black; under fur of top side of tail cinnamon buff, guard hairs are subapically banded with dark brown and tipped light buff, underside of tail a more predominantly cinnamon-buff.

Skull.—Averages larger than *sonoriensis*, but slightly smaller than *berlandieri*.



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Measurements.—*Type*: Total length, 640 mm.; tail vertebrae, 132; hind foot, 104. Skull; Condylbasal length, 116.4; zygomatic breadth, 70.3; mastoidal breadth, 72.5; interorbital breadth, 25; postorbital constriction, 27; palatal constriction, 13.3; palatilar length, 58; maxillary tooth row, 37.7.

Other skin measurements of two females, from 25 miles south of Douglas, Arizona in Sonora, and Wilcox, Arizona, a young adult and an old specimen are respectively as follows: Total length, 570, 695; tail vertebrae, 104, 132; hind foot, 101, 114.

Average and extreme cranial measurements of four females from Fort Lowell, Arizona; Wilcox, Arizona; 25 miles south of Douglas, Arizona, in Sonora; and San Pedro River, Arizona-Sonora Boundary, are as follows: Condylbasal length, 115 (112.7-117.5); zygomatic breadth, 70.7 (69.1-74.4); mastoidal breadth, 69.8 (64.5-76.3); interorbital breadth, 26 (25-26.8); postorbital constriction, 26.8 (26.3-27.6); palatal constriction, 13.2 (13-13.5); palatilar length, 56.6 (55.2-58); maxillary tooth row, 38 (37.6-39.2). Old male: Condylbasal length, 120.6; zygomatic breadth, 75.5; mastoid breadth, 73.2; interorbital breadth, 27.6; postorbital constriction, 29.2; palatal constriction, 14.8; palatilar length, 58.1; maxillary tooth row, 40.8.

Remarks.—*Taxidea taxus apache* appears most closely allied to *T. t. berlandieri*; it has a similar white dorsal stripe reaching from near tip of nose to the tail, but is grayer and slightly smaller. The Wilcox, Arizona specimen shows some intergradation, the white median dorsal stripe does not quite reach to the tail, and this skin is not quite as gray.

The two specimens collected respectively on the San Pedro River Mexican Boundary, and 25 miles south of Douglas, Arizona, in Sonora, within a 25 mile radius, were collected 38 years apart but are very similar in appearance.

One of the collectors of the type specimen, Doctor Mearns was a Surgeon in the U. S. Army serving with the International Boundary Commission while making an International Boundary Survey to re-locate the existing frontier line between the United States and Mexico, west of the Rio Grande River.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 6, as follows:
 Arizona: Apache Pass Draw, Cochise County, 1 (skull only, Mus. Vert. Zool., Univ. California); Fort Lowell, Pima County, 1 (skull only); Wilcox, Cochise County, 2 (1 skin and skull, 1 skull only).
 Mexico Boundary (Sonora-Arizona): San Pedro River, 1 (type locality, skin and skull).
 Sonora: 25 miles south of Douglas, Arizona, 1 (skin and skull, Mus. Nat. Hist., Univ. Kansas).